

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 01392 171402Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00
ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00
FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
OMB-01 PM-04 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00
ACDA-10 PA-02 PRS-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /140 W
----- 044009 /55

O R 171258Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2123
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
RUFH
S/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 0111
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DOHA 1392

E.O. 11652: N/A
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PAGE 02 DOHA 01392 171402Z

TAGS: ENRG OPEC QA
SUBJ: OPEC MINISTERIAL: SAUDI ARABIA AND UAE IMPOSE THEIR WILL
REF: DOHA 1384

1. IN A REMARKABLE PRESS CONFERENCE EARLY AFTERNOON DEC 17

SHAYKH AHMED ZAKI YAMANI CONVINCED EVERYONE THAT SAUDI ARABIA (AND ITS STAUNCH ALLY, THE UAE) WAS UNWILLING TO COMPROMISE ON THE PRICE ISSUE. HE SAID OTHER OPEC MEMBERS WERE WELCOME TO TRY TO IMPOSE HIGHER PRICES, BUT HE PREDICTED FAILURE SINCE SAUDI ARABIA'S PRODUCTION WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RISE IN RESPONSE TO DEMAND.

2. YAMANI SAID THAT FIVE PERCENT PRICE INCREASE WOULD PROBABLY, BECAUSE OF SAUDI EXPECTATIONS REGARDING CONTINUED RECOVERY OF DC ECONOMIES, HOLD FOR ONE YEAR. NEVERTHELESS, HE DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER INCREASE LATER IN THE YEAR IF WORLD ECONOMIC CONDITIONS "REQUIRED" IT.

3. YAMANI ALSO SAID THAT FUTURE SAUDI DECISIONS REGARDING OIL PRICES WILL DEFINITELY BE LINKED TO OUTCOME OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND TO PROGRESS IN RESOLVING ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM.

4. A FINAL, SOMEWHAT SURPRISING POINT MADE BY YAMANI WAS THAT FAILURE OF MINISTERS TO REACH UNANIMOUS DECISION DID NOT MEAN THE BREAK-UP OF OPEC. HE EVEN SAID THAT NOT ONLY DID OPEC NEED SAUDI ARABIA BUT THAT SAUDI ARABIA NEEDS OPEC.

5. SHORTLY AFTER THE INTERVIEW, YAMANI DEPARTED DOHA FOR SAUDI ARABIA.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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To: STATE
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